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PRELIMINARY PARALLAX OF NOVA AQUILAE NO. 3¹

Eleven exposures were measured by both van Maanen and Sanford to derive a preliminary parallax of the Nova. The result is

$$\pi \text{ abs.} = +0''.060 \pm 0''.004$$

The first two exposures were taken on June 12, 1918, when the magnitude was +0.7; altho a double rotating sector was used at that time in order to cut down the brightness of the Nova, the exposures still show images of considerable size, about 6" in diameter. Using only the later exposures we can compute the parallax by adopting the proper motion that was derived by Trumpler; we then find $+0''.058 \pm 0''.007$.

Altho the parallax is still uncertain it seems worth while to compute the absolute magnitude of the Nova at different epochs. By accepting $+0''.060$ as parallax, the absolute magnitude at maximum was -2.4; now it is about +5, and, supposing that the apparent magnitude will diminish to 10.5, which was the value before the outburst, the absolute magnitude will be +9.4 at minimum. For the three Novae for which parallaxes are available (*Nova Persei* No. 2, *Nova Geminorum* No. 2, and *Nova Lacertae*), the mean absolute magnitudes are -2.9 and +6.9, respectively, at maximum and minimum, in good agreement with the results above.

On June 4, 1919, the Nova had the appearance of a very small planetary nebula, the disk being a little over 1" in diameter.

A. VAN MAANEN AND R. F. SANFORD.

NOTE ON THE RESULTS OF THE SEARCH FOR AN INTRA-MERCURIAL PLANET, ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8, 1918.

Two of the cameras of the Vulcan-Einstein apparatus employed at Goldendale, Washington, were directed about 4° east and west of the Sun in continuation of the search for an intra-Mercurial planet.

Fifty-eight stars were found on the two Einstein plates taken with the Sun central, limiting magnitude about 9.0 B. D. On the plate of the region to the west of the Sun sixty-five stars were found; a few of these were as faint as 9.0. But on the plate directed to the east of the eclipsed Sun only one star was found, and that at the very edge of the plate nearest to the Sun; clouds cut out all others. On this plate even a star as bright as magnitude 3.1 is invisible.

¹Read at the Pasadena meeting of the *Ast. Soc. Pac.* June 19, 1919.